

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA molecule that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 176.

18. (Previously Presented) The isolated DNA molecule according to claim 17, wherein the DNA molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 175.

19. (Previously Presented) An expression system comprising an expression vector into which is inserted a heterologous DNA molecule according to claim 17.

20. (Currently Amended) A host cell comprising a heterologous DNA molecule according to claim [1] 17.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a recombinant thermostable single-strand binding protein of a DNA polymerase III-type enzyme, said method comprising:

transforming a host cell with the heterologous DNA molecule according to claim 17 under conditions suitable for expression of the single-strand binding protein, and  
isolating the single-strand binding protein.